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**From:** Card, Joan  
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**Subject:** Fw: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Wyo. officials revise water testing plan near Pavillion

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**HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Wyo. officials revise water testing plan near Pavillion (Monday, June 16, 2014)**

**Mike Soraghan, E&E reporter**

Wyoming officials have expanded their plans for testing drinking water near Pavillion, Wyo., where a group of residents believe oil and gas operations fouled groundwater.

The [plan](#), announced at a meeting in the community last week, has left those residents suspicious. But Encana Corp., the oil and gas company involved, remains supportive of the plan.

"We support the efforts by the State of Wyoming to answer concerns of landowners in the Pavillion area related to the palatability of their water," Encana spokesman Doug Hock said Friday.

One source of irritation among critics is that Encana, which is helping to fund the investigation, will get to review the results before they're made public.

"This meeting didn't provide us anything except more questions," said John Fenton, a rancher in the area and the president of the group Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens. "The state's closed-door process, funded by Encana, doesn't inspire confidence."

Agency officials plan to test groundwater in the area for nearly all the pollutants that U.S. EPA looked for in its groundwater investigation. The state had been planning to test for a smaller number of substances.



But the state also is not planning to test two monitoring wells drilled by EPA, which also riles the critics in the community.

EPA dropped its investigation into water contamination in the area about a year ago, handing its inquiry to state officials who have long been at odds with the group of residents ([EnergyWire](#), June 21, 2013).

In late 2011, EPA released a draft report that found hydraulic fracturing fluids to be present in deep groundwater but not the area's shallower drinking water. But when the U.S. Geological Survey tried to replicate the results in 2012 from EPA's two monitoring wells, it found one of the wells to be poorly constructed and therefore unable to produce reliable data.

Encana and other industry representatives have repeatedly slammed EPA's investigation as sloppy and lacking in transparency. But environmental groups say EPA caved in to industry pressure when it bailed out of the investigation.

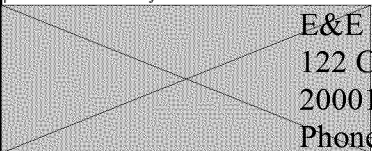
"Frankly, the industry has long tried to block independent investigations from documenting contamination, and Encana's ability to review these studies before they go public continues this pattern," said Bruce Baizel, director of the energy program at Earthworks. "The EPA should never have given in to this outside pressure. EPA should reopen its investigation into Pavillion-area fracking groundwater pollution."

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